In the claims:

64. (Currently amended). A filter assembly, comprising:

a block resonator filter comprising a block of dielectric material, having faces designated in terms of X, Y, and Z directions, and having a conductive plating, the block resonator filter characterized by three resonant modes, namely Mode 1 = TE110, Mode 2 = TE101, and Mode 3 = TE011 with the TE fields designated for the x, y, and z directions; and

at least one tuning element adapted for tuning ~~one mode's~~ the resonant frequency of one mode substantially independent of the ~~other mode's~~ resonant frequencies of the other modes,; ~~and~~

~~the at least one tuning element selectable for increasing and decreasing the one mode's resonant frequency~~

said at least one tuning element comprising an affected area where the conductive plating is removed from a face of the block resonator filter, and the tuning element is selected from among the following:

an affected area shaped like a slot in at least one of the following configurations, to decrease a frequency of resonance

a slot along the X-direction in the X-Y face to decrease the resonant frequency of Mode 2,

a slot along the X-direction in the X-Z face to decrease the resonant frequency of Mode 1,

a slot along the Y-direction in the X-Y face to decrease the resonant frequency of Mode 3,

a slot along the Y-direction in the Y-Z face to decrease the resonant frequency of Mode 1,

a slot along the Z-direction in the X-Z face to decrease the resonant frequency of Mode 3,

a slot along the Z-direction in the Y-Z face to decrease the resonant frequency of Mode 2, and

at least one circular affected area placed in at least one of the following locations to increase a frequency of resonance

on the X-Y face to increase the resonant frequency of Mode 1.

on the X-Z face to increase the resonant frequency of Mode 2, and

on the Y-Z face to increase the resonant frequency of Mode 3.

65. (Canceled)

66. (Currently amended). The filter assembly according to Claim 6465, wherein the at least one ~~void~~ affected area is shaped like a slot, and the ~~one mode's~~ resonant frequency of the one mode is decreased as a length of the slot is increased.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently amended). The filter assembly according to Claim 6465, wherein the at least one ~~void~~ affected area is shaped like a rectangular slot. ~~one of rectangular shaped for decreasing the one mode's resonant frequency and circular shaped for increasing the one mode's resonant frequency.~~

69 - 70 (Canceled).

71. (Currently amended). The filter assembly according to Claim 64[[69]], wherein in ~~the~~an ~~effected~~ affected area ~~of conductive plating~~ is one of removeding ~~the~~ conductive plating and indenteding ~~the~~ conductive plating.

72-76 (Canceled)

77. (Currently amended). A filter assembly, comprising:

a block resonator filter comprising a block of dielectric material having a conductive plating; and

a means for tuning at least one of three resonant ~~resonate~~ frequencies associated with the block resonator filter; and

the tuning means comprising an ~~effected~~ affected area of the conductive plating having a determined shape for selectable increasing or decreasing the at least one ~~resonate~~ resonant frequency, wherein a circular shape increases the resonant ~~resonate~~ frequency, and a rectangular shape decreases the resonate frequency.~~;~~ and

a mask filter operably connected to said block resonator filter, wherein a passband of said mask filter is wider than a passband of said block resonator filter; and a low-pass filter operably connected to said block resonator filter, wherein said low-pass filter rejects frequencies greater than the passband of said block resonator filter.

78. (Currently amended). The filter assembly according to Claim 64[[77]], wherein the affected ~~effected~~ area comprises an area of the conductive plating having a decreased thickness with respect to the remaining conductive plating.

79-80 (Canceled)